Summer Ranger Programs

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Strive for gold at Wildlife Olympics

Test your skills and compare your abilities to animals in Yellowstone. How far can you jump? How well can you see and smell? Take part in the Yellowstone Wildlife Olympics on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between noon and 3 PM.

Stay for as little or as long as your plans allow.

Mammoth Hot Springs (Mondays from 12-3 PM)

Across from the Albright Visitor Center June 3, 10, 17, 24 • July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 • August 5

Old Faithful (Wednesdays from 12-3 PM)

Near Old Faithful Visitor Education Center June 5, 12, 19, 26 • July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 • August 7

Canyon Village (Fridays from 12-3 PM)

Near Canyon Visitor Education Center June 7, 14, 21, 28 • July 5, 12, 19, 26 • August 2, 9

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Teachers can bring a group to Yellowstone (with at least three weeks prior notice), have a ranger visit a school in the area, or schedule a video conference with students anywhere. Details at www.nps.gov/yell/forteachers

Stars Over Yellowstone Weather permitting; enjoy programs about astronomy offered in cooperation with the Museum of the Rockies with assistance from the Southwest Montana Astronomical Society. Find constellations, hear star stories, and view celestial objects through telescopes.

Night Sky Observing Madison Information Station Parking Lot

10:30 РМ Fridays and Saturdays: June 14 & 15, July 12 & 13, and August 9 & 10.

Find the Milky Way, Saturn, craters on the Moon, the center of the Galaxy, star clusters, and nebula. Telescopes available. Bring a flashlight.

Safe Solar Observing Old Faithful Visitor Education Center area

2-5 PM Saturdays: June 15, July 13, and August 10.

Safely view the sun through telescopes. Great for the whole family.

Evening programs about astronomy • Madison Amphitheater

Fri. June 14, 9:30 pm • Cosmic update 2013

What's up, what's new, and what's hot in the big wide universe and exploration of it. Presented by Dr. Jim Manning, Executive Director, The Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

Sat. June 15, 9:30 PM • Did Mars start out like Yellowstone?

Have a look at our search for life elsewhere, and how Mars may have started out like Yellowstone as a possible source of life. Presented by Dr. Jim Manning.

Fri. July 12, 9:30 PM • Curiosity for Mars

Everywhere we look on Earth we see life, even in the boiling hot pools of Yellowstone. Might we find the same on Mars? Four hundred years of wondering has brought us to the exciting missions roving across Mars today. What will we find now that we are there? Presented by Dr. Tyler Nordgren, of the University of Redlands.

Sat. July 13, 9:30 PM • Stars above, Earth below

A star-filled sky with the Milky Way stretching from horizon to horizon is now as rare a sight as the grizzly bears and geysers that bring visitors to America's national parks every year. How can we learn about our own planet and distant planets by what we see there? Presented by Dr. Tyler Nordgren.

Fri. August 9, 9 PM • Mysteries of the radiation belts revealed

Learn how new observations from NASA's Van Allen Storm Probes mission are answering mysteries of Earth's radiation belts, as well as revealing incredible new ones. Presented by Dr. Harlan Spence, of the University of New Hampshire.

Sat. August 10, 9 PM • Mysteries of the radiation belts revealed *(encore)*

Presented by Dr. Harlan Spence.

Stay on designated trails and boardwalks. Ground in hydrothermal areas is fragile and thin, and there is scalding water just below. Visitors have fallen through and died here. Keep your children close at hand.

Keep your distance. You must stay at least 100 yards (91 m) from bears and wolves. A distance of 25 yards (23 m) is required from bison, elk, and other animals. Regardless of distance, if any wild animal changes its behavior due to your presence, you are too close.

As you enjoy trails, be bear aware. You are safer hiking with groups. Make yourself heard in areas where you can't see far around you. Do not run from a bear under any circumstance. Carry bear spray and know how to use it safely.